

What We're Hearing:

Summary Analysis of Engagement Hub Comments and Open-Ended Phase 1 Survey Responses

This document presents findings from Phase 1 of OPCD's One Seattle Plan engagement. It contains a categorized summary analysis of all comments left by the public on our [Engagement Hub](#) and in response to four questions in the Phase I Survey that were open-ended (questions 2, 4, 6, and 7).

The goal of this analysis was to obtain a better understanding of over 10,000 individual comments and responses to question prompts from the preliminary months of the One Seattle Plan process. OPCD staff tagged responses by Comprehensive Plan element (such as Housing, Environment, and Transportation) by searching for frequently recurring keywords and phrases in the comment or response text. Many responses contained multiple phrases and keywords that were be tagged under multiple categories. Within each category, responses were analyzed by manually reading through the text. Many responses touched on multiple topic areas, so these response counts do not sum to the total.

When reading this summary, we encourage the public to consider that the responses to each question represent qualitative responses that supplemented quantitative responses to the same question. OPCD has previously released a [summary report](#) detailing these quantitative responses. It is also important to remember that this is a summary of what we have heard *so far*. We will continue to add to this dataset as the One Seattle Plan engagement process continues, and will incorporate public feedback on our engagement questions, methodology, and analysis as these processes unfold. This is an iterative process, and we greatly appreciate feedback on how to refine this process to best reflect individuals' and communities' visions for the One Seattle Plan.

Quotes have been included throughout to show ideas directly from respondents.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please email us directly at OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov

Q2: Community Needs.

What are the most important community needs that the Comprehensive Plan update should address?

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Topic	# Responses
Housing	783
Community Well-Being	782
Transportation	665
Growth Strategy	220
Community Engagement	102
Parks & Open Space	93
Land Use	63
Environment & Climate	60
Race & Equity	50
Capital Facilities & Utilities	51
Economy & Jobs	47
Arts & Culture	2
Total Comments	1759

FINDINGS

HOUSING

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	Count
Affordability	Affordable, affordability, low-income, income	667
Density	Density, dense	213
Houselessness	Homeless, houseless, encampment, unhoused	157
SFH	Single, single-family, SFH, detached	125
Missing Middle	Missing middle, rowhome, cottage, plex	48
Rent Control	Rent control	20
Zoning	Zone, zoning	196

Affordability

While many comments mentioned adding more affordable housing in a general way, others specified strategies for implementation such as:

- Building for low-income and marginalized folks in well-resourced neighborhoods
- Building workforce housing
- Creating walkable and affordable neighborhoods
- Incentivizing building affordable housing
- Removing single-family zoning for mixed-use buildings and increasing housing density

Many comments linked affordable housing to density, access to transportation, near parks/green space, and community resources.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Housing affordability and AVAILABILITY for middle- and low-income communities. Permanent housing options and wrap-around services for homeless folks. Universal basic income for artists or cultural workers. Massive expansion of public transit. Increase housing density everywhere, not only in urban cores.”

“Affordable housing that has trees and vegetation (beauty matters and so does temperature)”

“Abundant housing is affordable housing. Affordable housing (every neighborhood) is better for all people.”

Density

Comments that mentioned density specified increasing density in and around:

- Current and expanded urban villages
- Public transportation and bike lanes
- Outside of current boundaries
- Retail hubs
- Walkable neighborhoods

Many comments mentioned a general need for increasing density and tied this need to the need for affordable housing.

“We need density around transit nodes and in high opportunity areas just as much as green space a calmer streets in historically disadvantaged areas.”

Homelessness

Responses addressed the homeless crisis, and offered strategies like upzoning, working with existing housing providers to reduce or stabilize rent, providing more city-funded housing resources, and ending sweeps.

Examples of comments in this category:

“We need housing for people who are homeless. Not just shelters and tiny homes. Real houses that people want to live in. We need apartments that are under \$1,000 a month.”

“Homeless!!! They are real people with real needs!! We need to house our neighbors now and expand low income and affordable housing. We need resources for addiction and mental health but most of all they need a place to LIVE.”

Single-Family Housing

Most comments voiced support for reducing or removing single-family housing zoning, advocating that the City focus on efforts to increase density, build larger and mixed-use development, and improve

access to transportation. Concerns related to SFH include affordability and multifamily housing that isn't only "along busy, noisy, uninviting arterials".

Examples of comments in this category:

"Like many American cities, Seattle has historically prioritized single-family homes and their de facto exclusionary zoning. The city must reform zoning, planning, and more, to encourage affordability and the types of dense, urban neighborhoods that improve quality of life for everyone, and make "sustainability" a realistic and achievable outcome."

Missing Middle

More missing middle housing included mentions of duplexes, triplexes, quad-plexes, sixplexes, small apartment buildings, townhouses, and mid-rises. Responses tied missing middle housing to other needs, like food deserts, community spaces, reliable transportation, safe transportation, and density.

Examples of comments in this category:

"We need mixed income housing of all types, more moderate income serving for sale housing, and more small retail strips to bring some walkability to currently single-family neighborhoods. We need to allow missing middle density in all residential areas, especially outside the urban villages."

Rent Control

Responses related to rent control paired it with affordable housing concerns and increasing housing options.

Examples of comments in this category:

"Ample affordable housing seems paramount (rent control!), as does having a lot more permanent housing for homeless individuals."

Zoning

Zoning comments called for reducing or removing single-family housing zoning (although some requested maintaining this designation). Upzoning or rezoning to multifamily housing included mentions of duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, rowhouses, and apartments. Many felt that the existing zoning is restrictive and zoning goals need to be reassessed.

Examples of comments in this category:

"Housing, to include taking a hard look at whether single family home zoning is sustainable, both for providing adequate housing AND environmentally. Many of us need to learn to take up a little less space. (I live in Rainier Beach where we have lots of apartment buildings, duplexes, and multi-generational family homes. Surely Laurelhurst, Wallingford, etc. can learn to embrace the new reality!)"

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	Count
Safety	Safe, crime, violence, theft	249

Houselessness	Homeless, houseless, encampment, unhouse	190
Services	Service, resource, program, support, education, educate	126
Health	Health, wellness	103
Vulnerable Population	Senior, kid, child, vulnerable, bipoc, black, indigenous	58
Food	Food, garden, farm, fresh	25

Food

Comments about food touched on a need for food security, access to grocery stores, and locally grown and healthy foods. They also expressed concerns for food prices.

Health

Health-related comments included a request for access to mental health services and support and physical health issues. Many of these problems related mental resources to houselessness and affordable housing. Others mentioned healthcare services alongside a need for high-quality and affordable services.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Investment in services such as free or affordable childcare, more community services such as vocational training, affordable and comprehensive mental health and physical health care, and increased affordable public transportation that is green.”

“Affordable housing; accessible services for those with addiction and mental health issues”

Houselessness

Responses that addressed houselessness discussed needing more affordable housing for this population, the negative effect of single-family zoning on affordability, and importance of resources. When talking about resources, some respondents called these the “root causes”, emphasizing the need for mental health resources, stable housing, and education.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Homelessness is a symptom, but equity and accessibility are probably the issue. Crime is up all over the city and Seattle needs to be a safe to continue its growth. I think diverse housing options, robust transit, social services, and law enforcement are all important.”

“Addressing root causes of homelessness/poverty (lack of access to stable housing, education, infrastructure regardless of income) rather than punishing the poor with relentless, ineffective sweeps and police harassment.”

“Also, a plan for providing housing for homeless neighbors or at least, designated sites/tiny house villages with sanitation and social services.”

Safety

There were many general mentions of improving public safety. Some specified safety related to public transportation issues and traffic violence (and improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians). A few

comments suggested increases in prosecution and punishment alongside more police, while many others voiced wanting to defund the police to improve safety.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Public Safety - More Police, Mental Health, Continued support for fire/EMS, 911”

“Ensuring that kids have safe places to walk and play. Crime prevention should be priority #1.”

“For the elderly women, it’s important to feel safe especially with public transportation. Sometimes for Friday prayer a lot of the Cham refugees community members are not able to attend community gatherings because they don’t have any form of transportation or anyone to carpool with.”

Services

Comments mentioned specific community resources and services such as:

- Community centers
- Family services
- Holistic health and education
- Mental health services
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms at transit stops
- Safe injection sites
- Sports recreation
- Social services
- Waterparks

Frequently mentioned general services included groceries, childcare, medical facilities, libraries, transportation, and parks.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Housing of the unhoused, accessible, affordable, and fast, transportation, public services like safe, clean, accessible, restrooms at transit centers and light rail stations, more green space, playgrounds, and water parks, to back fill the lost yards and make up for the increase in density.”

Vulnerable Population

Comments about vulnerable populations specifically addressed the wealth gap for low-income, BIPOC, and marginalized communities. Several responses discussed the racist legacy of housing policies that excluded BIPOC families from ownership as well as issues with gentrification and the effect on BIPOC businesses. Some comments also mentioned displacement of seniors and challenges with affordably aging in place. Other comments linked safety to children, requesting safe spaces for children like parks.

Examples of comments in this category:

“More help with basic needs (food, childcare, health care) to support low-income families. The gap between rich and poor feels like it is changing the fabric of the city.”

“Our city needs to be welcoming to the most vulnerable citizens - the elderly, those with mobility impairments, children, anyone without a home or a car. Where will they live, shop, and work? How will they move through the city? Where will they be allowed to exist, without buying or owning something?”

TRANSPORTATION

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	Count
Cars	Car, vehicle, auto	227
Bikes/Rolling	Bicycle, cyclist, bike, biking, rolling	123
Light Rail/Rail	Light rail, rail, subway, metro	58
Parking	Parking	25
Walkability	Walk, pedestrian, foot, stroll	163

Cars

Comments about cars pointed out existing issues, such as parking, traffic, and safety. Many comments called for reducing car dependency by prioritizing public transit. Other comments touched on installing private EV chargers, installing more stop signs, reducing SOVs, and reducing pollution from cars.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Cars have to go. Driving around this city and looking for parking is awful. Please expand public transit tenfold.”

“Reliable, frequent public transportation. Denser housing - especially near public transit - to increase housing stock, support neighborhood businesses, and reduce car miles traveled. We need to prioritize reducing the city’s reliance on personal cars.”

“Infrastructure to allow people to move around without reliance on cars. This will improve the environment and promote equity.”

Bikes/Rolling

Mentions of bikes and rolling mobility emphasized improving safety and convenience for these modes over cars and prioritizing them for infrastructure improvements and expansion (such as more bike lanes).

Examples of comments in this category:

“Permanent changes to streets to remove cars and encourage pedestrians and bikes throughout the city. Improving the experience for pedestrians and bicyclists so that people choose to walk over driving.”

Light Rail/Rail

Responses about light rail or rail mentioned focusing growth (specifically housing) along light rail corridors or near light rail stations. People also wanted more light rail stations, bus routes connecting to light rail, and speeding up light rail construction, as well as high speed rail.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Transit, transit, transit. Light rail where it can go, BRT where it can't. Put stations where people are, not on the other side of the world.”

“Light rail in West Seattle will only serve the most affluent neighborhoods, what about High Point, South Park, Westwood, and White Center? What about connecting Yesler Terrace with the light rail stations at either PSq or ID? A gondola could solve such.”

Parking

Some comments called for reducing car dependency and removing parking. Others asked for parking and streets that could handle traffic, in addition to being shareable spaces with pedestrians and cyclists. There were also comments that voiced concern with building new developments without parking, but without making transportation improvements/expanding transportation options.

Examples of comments in this category:

“We need dense walkable neighborhoods built at human scale. Reduce car dependency and allow building more multi-family mixed use buildings. Continue to take away parking and narrow our streets.”

Walkability

Walkability concerns focused on improving safety for pedestrians, creating walkable neighborhoods, and designating spaces/zones for pedestrians. Responses called for prioritizing pedestrian networks throughout the city and improving/cleaning up existing sidewalks. Some comments also mentioned pedestrian-only roads.

“Trying to walk and bike is a nightmare. Drivers are reckless and entitled. We have a Stay Healthy street that is supposed to be closed to cars -- but during school drop off, it's just a parade of cars close passing children. At an intersection close to the school, there is a flashing crosswalk that drivers routinely ignore. Let me be clear: drivers sail by *children* wearing *safety vests* at a *flashing crosswalk. *”

“We need to create dense, walkable neighborhoods so that people don't need cars for everyday activities like shopping, recreation and dining.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While the Engagement Hub algorithm identified over 100 relevant responses using this keyword, these were reviewed for relevance. Most comments did not signify specific ways community members want to be engaged for Comprehensive Planning efforts, but instead specified groups that should be involved in planning matters. These groups included:

- BIPOC
- Homeowners
- Houseless
- Low-income
- Marginalized
- Non-US citizens
- Pedestrians
- Retirees
- Youth/Young adults

Several comments did request more community building efforts and fostering relationships in neighborhoods.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Fostering "neighborhoods" and geographic relationships, not special interest groups and slices of populations. Incorporating feedback and lessons learned from previous bursts of growth to balance and inform future growth (e.g., Ballard has grown tremendously and there's never reporting back to the community on how we are doing on basic categories like public safety, parks, school capacity, etc., nor any kind of ongoing framework for civic connection and relationship-building at the neighborhood level. What happened to Dept of "Neighborhoods"? Seattleites need to get past the polarization of social media and special interests, to build relationships and share information from the community level up to the district level and citywide. Housing, transportation, public safety -- core municipal issues need to have a neighborhood civic framework that is independent of advocacy/political groups, so people can learn and hear each other ask questions and express ideas, not just within echo chambers.”

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Respondents suggested investing in and improving existing parks and greenspace as well as increasing equitable access to these places. A few comments specified safe, clean, and natural spaces. Some suggested expanding programming through Parks & Rec, adding dog parks, service-learning opportunities, and increasing the number of outdoor play areas. Adding more parks could be done through mini parks and community gardens on vacant lots through microgrants and utilizing street parking as open space. There were also some comments relating parks and open space to houselessness.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Everyone should be able to live in a neighborhood where you can walk to all your everyday needs, ride transit to work, and have access to plentiful public space of different types (nature, recreation, plazas, etc.).”

LAND USE

Respondents noted land use needs related to:

- Developing housing near transit
- Growing in all neighborhoods
- Increasing density
- Removing single family zoning/prioritizing multifamily zoning or mixed zoning

Much of these proposed changes were tied to issues like affordability and needs for families. However, there was concern for less density tied to COVID.

Examples of comments in this category:

“A data driven approach to zoning needs to be taken. To just fall back on zoning decisions from decades ago is lazy and inefficient. You should assign numeric values for certain things (distance from mass transit, distance to stores, schools, etc.) and let that dictate zoning density. For example: Being on a bus line would be worth 5 points, two bus lines, 10 points, etc. A block from a park 3 points, two blocks- 2 points, 3 blocks-1 point. Block(s) from shops, schools, etc. similar values awarded. Then the numbers of a particular parcel(s) are added up for that zoning. This would use readily available data to get real time suitability for denser land use.”

“Please do not change any residential zoning laws. People want LESS density and more space. The covid virus is a good example of why density is bad. Not to mention people need and want space. Please don't destroy Seattle's neighborhoods. Preserving older and larger trees should also be a priority and point of emphasis. With so many old buildings being torn down the trees on those properties usually go with them. We need to protect those trees.”

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Environmental and climate-related topics addressed:

- Improving noise and air pollution
- Meeting climate mitigation goals
- Prioritizing environmental justice
- Protecting trees and planting new trees to combat the urban heat island effect and improve air quality
- Reducing emissions as a top priority
- Shifting transportation away from cars and towards greener solutions

Examples of comments in this category:

“A Green New Deal for Seattle. Climate emission annual targets with metrics and strong mitigation measures if targets aren't met, new green jobs, affordable housing at all income levels, a transportation system that gets folks out of their cars and rapidly brings down emissions, sidewalks and protected bike routes, prioritize pedestrians and bikes at signal intersections, 15-minute neighborhoods, resilient communities, healthy food, safe places to go during heat and smoke events. Ending displacement and also welcoming climate refugees. None of these should be traded against the others -- we need them as a complete and complementary package.”

RACE AND EQUITY

Respondents who mentioned race and equity linked it to areas like:

- Climate change – greenhouse gas emissions reductions, climate justice in marginalized communities
- Housing – affordability, abolishing SFZ, missing middle, ownership, workforce housing
- Jobs – fair pay
- Parks/greenspace – access, converting golf courses to parks

- Transportation – free buses, expanded access, multimodality, NMT, safety (not policed)

Examples of comments in this category:

“Advancing missing middle housing. Everything else relies on housing policy. Jobs, environment, race-equity...none of these conversations can happen without housing.”

“Measurably fulfilling the basic material needs of nonwhite and marginalized communities. This means doing the policies and planning that actually reduce the wealth gap, supply affordable housing options across the city, safe streets and increased mobility, etc. Strategies for this will mean opening up the city to multiple housing options so that pockets of movement in new neighborhoods can be an option. This may at times be difficult because sometimes marginalized communities can view investments like bike lanes as not wanted. But bike lanes are for everyone not just white or privileged people, same as investment. I also think the Comprehensive Plan update should have a gendered lens approach and a children-focused agenda as well. A city structured for the daily movement, safety, needs, and support of women is a future and healthy city to aim for as doing so in housing, transit/mobility, and space will provide dividends in social and climate goals. Lastly, children should no longer be invisible in the city, let's celebrate the presence of children and have a city where children want to be, and parents want their kids to grow up in and stay in.”

CAPITAL FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

City services and infrastructure mentioned in the comments touched on:

- Adding more benches and trash/recycling cans, specifically at bus stops
- Building adequate city services (such as transportation, libraries, schools, etc.) in place before new commercial construction
- Cleaning up public spaces like Gas Works Park and the Burke Gilman Trail
- Providing public restrooms and drinking water downtown
- Recycling gray water in buildings
- Retrofitting all buildings for solar

Examples of comments in this category:

“Equity will never be achieved without access to affordable housing, affordable business spaces, tenant protections, and living wages. Seattle must reinvent itself. It is no longer a sleepy small city -- it's been overrun by capital and an exploding wealthy population. Its infrastructure (physical and legal) wasn't prepared for this, and they must be improved. Money cannot be allowed to rule unimpeded.”

ECONOMY AND JOBS

Many comments related to economic development addressed economic divides present in Seattle, and how this creates challenges in areas like housing, equity, and community well-being. Strategies mentioned include:

- Building mixed-use with retail opportunities on the first floor and residential above
- Creating workforce housing and other affordable housing to address income gaps between tech workers and others
- Considering the needs of community members who work outside of the corporate world, especially in relation to transportation and childcare
- Implementing job training programs
- Using a Green New Deal to create green jobs

Examples of comments in this category:

“We are currently facing a dire deficit of housing stock after decades of permitting rapid class A office space (jobs) growth without permitting housing stock growth to accommodate all those new high-earning residents. Expanding the commute shed to jobs centers through investments in transit will eventually release some of that pressure, but as we've seen with ST3 it's not keeping pace with population growth sufficiently to work on its own. High rise luxury 1BR apartments between 520 and I90 won't deliver the housing stock our residents desire, in the neighborhoods they want to live in, and eventually all of these young single tech workers will want to settle down and start families (on two-tech-job household incomes). The only way to preserve Seattle as a city for ALL Seattleites will be to embrace missing middle housing options and abolish exclusionary SFH zoning.”

“As this city grows, we need to anticipate how high rents and housing prices will continually effect people. Right now, there are pockets of “affordable” places to rent in South Seattle or Central, but rents are soaring and these communities will be effected. We need to plan for more affordable housing, rent controlled units and low-income housing. We don't want a city where only the richest can live in it and be close to their employment, while workers who are very important to the functioning of cities (service employees, teachers, city employees, construction workers) have to commute two hours. Affordable housing and good public transit are something we need to get right in order to set ourselves up for the next 20 years.”

ARTS AND CULTURE

Comments related to arts and culture noted Seattle being a leader in the arts and requesting more art and culture to grow a “more livable environment”.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Seattle needs to remain a vibrant city for all. It has been a leader in the arts and needs to remain so. We need more parks, especially dog parks. We need to retain and encourage job growth.”

Q4: Housing and Displacement.

What types of housing do we most need to add as the city grows?

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	# Responses
Affordability	Affordable, affordability, income, low-income	491
Density	Dense, density	276
Single Family	SFH, SFZ, single family	230
Rent Control	Rent control	171
Missing Middle	Duplex, triplex, fourplex, plex, cottage, adu, missing middle, rowhome	160
Upzoning	Upzone, upzoning	150
Safety	Safe, crime, violence	64
TOD	Transit oriented, near transit, TOD	24
		2348

FINDINGS

AFFORDABILITY

Proposed strategies for addressing affordability concerns include:

- Building more “mid-level apartments” with limited amenities
- Creating incentives and requirements for developers building affordable housing
- Creating “pathways to ownership for low-income renters”
- Implementing rent control and rent assistance
- Investing in programs to help community members stay where they are
- Lidding I-5 to create space for affordable housing and businesses
- Limiting the number of properties per owner
- Partnering with developers to create affordable housing on unused structures and parking lots
- Requiring a percentage of units in new buildings to be for low-income residents
- Removing conditions and barriers for affordable housing, as well as city regulations and policies
- Subsidizing housing for low-income and elderly
- Taxing large companies for low-income housing funding
- Using existing government-owned property to build low-income housing

Examples of comments in this category:

“I know there are tax breaks for developers that provide a certain number of apartment units for "low income (80% of average salary) people". This is not enough. They need to provide that plus units that are affordable by a minimum wage worker. There needs to be rent control in older buildings.”

“Tax large corporations and hold them responsible for community impact and have tax dollars go towards building low-income housing”

“Quit giving market rate developers clear and easy path while making it tough for affordable housing builders. Incent the outcomes you want”

“Build more affordable housing! Affordable: something that two people who both earn minimum wage can live in on their income”

“Need a multi-pronged approach. Make sure people with Section 8 vouchers are not being taken advantage of by unscrupulous landlords who take money on the side from tenants (conduct a survey of voucher holders). Release more vouchers. Pay more to landlords to take vouchers. Create ADUs (whenever a new building is erected w/ more than 10 units) a percentage of those units are set aside as affordable dwelling units. Tax credit apartments. Make sure the housing resources go to the people who are actually from Seattle or used to live in Seattle and were pushed out.”

“I'm a long-term resident disabled homeowner on limited income. High property taxes are causing me to consider leaving the city. Programs to help people like me stay are important.”

There were a select number of comments that were uninterested in making housing affordable, instead proposing downzoning or having folks live in the suburbs.

DENSITY

Comments specified density in areas close to transit, corner lots, urban villages, corridors, parks, and businesses. Many comments about density were also touching on topics like affordability, missing middle housing, TOD, upzoning, and single-family zoning.

Examples of comments in this category:

“allow affordable, dense housing in EVERY neighborhood. Rent control/tax exemptions for small businesses to stay.”

“Increase density and require a percentage of units in new buildings to be reserved for lower income residents.”

SINGLE FAMILY

Most comments about single family zoning or housing were related to upzoning, increasing density, or eliminating single family zoning. These comments linked these suggested changes with:

- Allowing other uses in these zones (corner stores, small commercial uses)
- Requirements for affordable housing and rent control
- Incentivizing developers to replace SFHs with affordable units
- Simplifying and streamlining design review and regulations
- Stronger tenant and eviction protections

While almost all respondents supported the ideas above, there were comments that expressed support for more single-family homes.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Upzone much more land, especially upzoning all single-family zoning to at least row/townhouses. Allowing any singular neighborhood to exclude changes to their neighborhood to maintain 'character' unfairly adds more displacements to other neighborhoods.”

“Take away single family zoning. I love my house in a single-family neighborhood, purchased almost 40 years ago. But I'm aware of economic and generational inequity. I'll give it up if I have to. If some kind of equitable tax will help, I'll pay my share.”

“Allow more homes to be built on every lot, particularly single family lots across the city. Let the areas set to be developed add as much as possible. Let corners in every neighborhood build small retail or commercial spaces so people have places to go on foot and not in a car.”

RENT CONTROL

Responses that mentioned rent control and were in favor of it suggested implementation such as:

- 20% luxury apartment units to be rent controlled
- 25-year commercial rent control guarantees
- Both commercial and residential rent control
- Create policies and programs to protect renters
- Legal support for renters
- Rent control for lowest income people
- Rent subsidies for community orgs and small businesses
- Tax credits for landlords

There was frequent overlap with rent control and other housing changes like affordable housing, removing single family zoning, and upzoning.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Rent control in non-white neighborhoods now, before they gentrify”

“RENT CONTROL IS THE ONLY WAY! Create rent-stabilized zones across the city as they have done for decades in Manhattan, for example. You can't build your way out of this. There is no data to support the effectiveness of that comforting but inaccurate narrative, conveniently pushed by all who stand to gain monetarily by pushing building over everything else.”

“Rent control, and more housing. I'm likely leaving the city in the next 5 years because the rent is too high. Increase supply, cap prices.”

MISSING MIDDLE

Missing middle housing types mentioned include ADUs, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, six-plexes, eight-plexes, and townhomes in upzoned single family neighborhoods and removing complex regulations (related to height, parking) to do so. Respondents also mentioned having these housing options near

transit. Several comments suggested having standard designs for pre-approval for missing middle housing options.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Upzone single family areas to allow duplexes and other higher-density options citywide. Reduce barriers to building multifamily units (especially onerous design review).”

“Strip zoning down to a more form-based code that doesn't discriminate against people who want to share spaces and live sustainably or live near extended family or explore new ways of living. The goal should be to remove zoning requirements that dictate that people live in expensive, isolated, and energy consuming homes. If you can build a 5000 sq ft home on a parcel, you should be able to build a 5000 sq ft sixplex. If you can combine several parcels in a single-family neighborhood into a 10,000 sq. ft parcel, you should be able to build a small apartment building or co housing development. Small scale commercial and neighborhood business should be generally allowable. In general, we need permissive structure that encourage liberation and opportunity.”

“The "opportunity zones" have been a give-away of affordable housing for developer profit. No more of that. Add density in affluent neighborhoods instead of focusing all demo/replacement in poor neighborhoods. Backyard cottages (e.g. The BLOCK Project) add density without displacement. Give historic residents first right of refusal for new units in gentrifying neighborhoods.”

UPZONING

The comments supported upzoning throughout the city, with some specifying single family neighborhoods, or upzoning near TOD, urban villages, walkable communities, high-income areas, residential areas, quiet streets, parks/trails, and downtown. Several comments tied upzoning to simplifying design review to speed up the process.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Upzoning for more intense uses would allow for more density without overcrowding, and gradually reduce the cost of housing. By reducing the cost, fewer people would be displaced, including many of the people I grew up with in Seattle who are now forced to move to distant suburbs.”

“Upzone every neighborhood. We can't keep forcing development onto the communities most at risk of displacement and then pretend we don't understand why those communities are seeing displacement.”

“Upzone everywhere and make the design/review/SEPA process a lot simpler so new units can be built rapidly and without excess administrative costs”

SAFETY

Comments about safety specified safety in neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation, parks, businesses/organizations, public spaces for marginalized groups, and downtown. There were general comments about crime as well. Some connected safety to rent control. Some respondents also noted

concerns with law enforcement, such as corruption or lack of safety with police present. Others wanted increased police hiring.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Also, homeless women and those who identify as women, need spaces with doors and LOCKS for their safety.”

“Implement new services (other than police) to help people in our city such as mental health services. The police to do not help us feel safe.”

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

Responses mentioned building housing near transit, such as increasing housing density, upzoning, abolishing height restrictions, and decreasing lot sizes in these areas. Commenters also noted more development along light rail corridors and arterials.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Transit oriented affordable developments along the Light Rail corridors.”

“We have a fraction of the land that exists in many cities this size. We cannot accommodate everyone who wants/needs to live here unless we build high rises at transit. Paving over Seattle in the name of affordable housing severely compromises our fragile ecosystem. Use mass transit to make living in areas around Seattle a viable option. Invest in mass transit and high rise housing on main arteries and near transit.”

Q6: Climate Threats.

What current and future climate-related threats are you most concerned about?

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Category	Description (Keywords)	# Responses
Air Quality	Fire, smoke, air, air quality	1133
Temperature	Temperature, heat, cold	1036
Water	Rain, wet, water, sea	265
Trees/Green Space	Tree, green space, forest	223
Housing	Housing, house, shelter	196
Pollution	Pollution	138
Food	Food, farm, crop, garden	130
		2348

FINDINGS

AIR QUALITY

Respondents related issues with air quality to air pollution, wildfire smoke, and heat/weather changes, and the related health implications and climate migration challenges. Some respondents pointed out vulnerable communities who will be most affected, such as the houseless population. Responses also mentioned air pollution from cars and transportation.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Poor air quality from wildfire smoke and heat waves harming vulnerable members of our community. These are serious public health problems leading to short-term illness, chronic disease, shortened lifespans, and even death.”

“I think here in Seattle the forest fires that are now a yearly phenomenon have had the most impact on myself and my community. I imagine this will only get worse. An auxiliary effect I imagine will come is that climate-related issues in the US South will likely drive people north and further exacerbate our housing shortage.”

“The PNW now has a season colloquially referred to as "Smoke." This didn't happen even a decade ago! Poor air quality affects everyone, but it affects the poor more, who cannot afford air purifiers, and spend more time working outdoors.”

“My family has been most effected by the increase in local wildfires causing smoke to pollute our air. As we, like most seattlites, don't have air conditioning, during the smoke we have no way to get air flow into our home”

TEMPERATURE

Comments about temperature touched on concerns with both hot and cold weather. Concerns about heat were related to the heat dome event and general urban heat increases. Because of rises in temperature, respondents voiced unease about retrofitting homes and/or affording air conditioning, in addition to access to cooling centers. Other related worries included agricultural declines, social disorder, physical and mental health problems from stress and anxiety, and the impact on the houseless population. While heat was the main temperature-related concern, some expressed unease about potential extreme cold events and the costs of heating in the winter. Several comments noted how weather changes affected the ability to enjoy recreational activities in the region like skiing.

Examples of comments in this category:

“I think heatwaves and smoke from wildfires have had the largest impact. In the future, I am concerned about disparity in the ability of different parts of Seattle to manage climate-related challenges.”

“Heatwaves are the most major concern. My community has very few options for cooling, since most of the housing in my community dates to the 20th century, and does not include Air Conditioning. I am worried about the lack of cooling centers to allow people to survive extreme heat events.”

“Colder winters, increased snow events, and hotter, dryer summers. I've lived in Seattle most of my life and, at 59, never needed A/C until last summer. I could afford to switch from my fracked gas furnace to a heat pump with A/C but many people can't afford that or rent and have no choice to change their HVAC infrastructure.”

WATER

Water-related climate threats in the comments include rain, droughts, heavy rain/flooding, water scarcity, sea-level rise, water table rise, ocean acidification, water pollution. Concerns linked to these threats include water scarcity for people and plant/animal species (especially during heat events and decreasing snow/icepack), climate refugees as a result of events elsewhere, strain on stormwater systems, shortages for electricity generation, access, and livability. Several respondents voiced concern with landslides triggered by heavy rainfall.

Examples of comments in this category:

“More frequent snow & flooding in winter and long periods of high heat in summer. Seattle isn't built for lots of precipitation all at once. Lack of proper street/ storm drainage meant that the first floor of my friend's house flooded 3 years in a row, and he had to pay for all those repairs. Also there still aren't many air conditioned indoor spaces in Seattle, so 100+ degree weather just means suffering for many Seattleites, especially if they don't make much money.”

“Earlier I mentioned street flooding from that major rain in December 2020, which damaged vehicles and personal property stored in the basement of our condo building. We had no idea that could happen at our location. Similarly, I got married in February 2022 and the month before a record high tide damaged our waterfront restaurant venue which forced a change of plans.”

TREES/GREEN SPACE

Concerns about trees and green space mentioned loss of tree canopy due to temperature increases or development, ability (or lack thereof) to adapt to changing weather patterns, increases in invasives, habitat loss, and falling trees during storm events. As a result of these, respondents are concerned about the urban heat island effect, lack of shade, poor air quality, and erosion. Strategies for combating this include protecting existing trees and green space and planting more trees.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Heat waves made worse by over-paving. We need more shade trees and green spaces to combat deadly heat waves. Too many sidewalk strips are paved and need to be planted in.”

“We need more green spaces and parks, large street trees, large yard trees, especially in lower income areas. All the concrete and asphalt makes heat waves worse in a city, whereas trees will keep us cool. Excessive heat will supposedly be the biggest killer for lower income and aging populations.”

“Trees help with carbon capturing, making neighborhoods more beautiful and improve people's mental health. I see construction companies cutting down trees that have been growing for 50-70 years. Once that happens it takes a life time to regrow those trees.”

HOUSING

Housing issues related to climate include challenges for unhoused Seattleites as climate change causes changes in temperature and weather. Other comments voiced concerns like needing air conditioning in hotter summer months but lacking the ability to install units, since housing in the area was “not built to stay cool”; some comments expressed inequities in access to AC in high-rise apartments versus rental units, and government-run housing. Similar concerns were mentioned for insulation in colder months. Additionally, there was interest in electrifying homes.

Examples of comments in this category:

“I am most concerned for my unhoused neighbors as they are the most impacted by smoke and heat in the summer as well the inequities in climate disaster relief and prevention”

“Last year, I lived in a house without air conditioning. During the height of the heat wave during the summer (and projections seem to say that there are a lot more of those coming), we were desolate - the 6 of us crowding into the 1 bedroom in the house that actually had an AC unit in the window. Heat waves are only going to continue to get worse in the coming years if we don't do something about it, but that isn't my greatest concern”

“Stagnant housing policy and increased weather unpredictability dovetail to increase housing insecurity. In the past year I had to leave a housing situation in which my first floor apartment was not secure from increasingly intense rainstorms. I had the ability to do so, but others might not be so unfortunate. Faced with landlords unwilling to correct the situation (and liable to gaslight and finger point), many will be forced to endure these conditions without proper housing supply or be otherwise forced onto the street.”

POLLUTION

Comments that mentioned pollution showed concern for increased air pollution due to transportation, forest fires, lawn equipment, and industry; water pollution from corporations and cars; noise pollution from SeaTac; and pollution in the form of litter, garbage, and debris. Effects of pollution included food availability and accessibility, environmental justice issues, and health problems like asthma.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Air, noise, and water pollution from cars concerns me the more. Seattle MUST become less car-oriented.”

“Air pollution because I can only afford to live on the main drag with all the cars and semi trucks coming through in this city.”

FOOD

Climate-related food concerns touched on diminishing food availability and quality, as well as increasing prices. Respondents expressed concern with the effects such as displacement, conflicts, and mass extinctions. Strategies to mitigate these concerns include developing community resources like p-patches, urban food gardens, pollinator habitat connectivity, increased vegetation, and education.

Examples of comments in this category:

“So far: Heat waves, heat dome, wildfires, smoke from wildfires. Future: sea level rise, high temperatures, reduced snowpack for drinking water and hydropower, scarcity of food, climate refugees, wars over scarcity of water and other resources. For example, wheat won't be able to be grown in the U.S., and Canada's soil is too poor because the ice age glaciers deposited Canada's soil in what is now the U.S.”

“Smoke and heat have personally affected me the most. I am most nervous about climate migration and our inability to welcome more people as neighbors, increased wildfires and poor air quality, increased severity and intensity of storms that lead to erosion and landslide events, impacts on regional crops such as cherries and apples that drive our economy and make our quality of life so high, and extinction of critical species like salmon and orcas.”

Q7: Visioning.

If our Comprehensive Plan were successful, how would Seattle be different in 20 years?

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Topic	# Responses
Housing	783
Community Well-Being	782
Transportation	665
Community Engagement	367
Parks & Open Space	110
Environment & Climate	92
Capital Facilities & Utilities	60
Land Use	46
Race & Equity	45
Economy & Jobs	44
Arts & Culture	19
	1759

FINDINGS

HOUSING

Category	Description (Keywords)	# Responses
Affordability	Affordable, affordability, low-income, income	298
Density	Dense, density, denser, densely	143
Houselessness	Homeless, houseless, encampment, unhoused	132
SFH	Single, single-family, SFH, detached	86
Zoning	Zone, zoning	70
Missing Middle	Missing middle, rowhome, cottage, plex	46
Rent Control	Rent control	10

Affordability

Expanding affordable housing was mentioned as particularly important for marginalized, low-income/low-wage, BIPOC, and middle-class community members. Respondents specified having affordable housing in dense, walkable neighborhoods as well as mixed-income housing and neighborhoods.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Historically marginalized Seattlites and low-income folks would have access to plenty of affordable housing throughout ALL neighborhoods, especially the most desirable and well-resourced neighborhoods. They would not just be crowded into a couple of low-income neighborhoods with few resources.”

“Affordable, efficient homes in walkable, comfortable, active neighborhoods for every person that wants to live here.”

Density

Comments about density mentioned increasing it near and in:

- Central neighborhoods (Queen Anne, Wallingford, Eastlake)
- Green spaces and increased tree cover
- Offices and workplaces
- Transportation, like light rail
- Walkable neighborhoods with access to grocery stores, restaurants, shops, essential services

Some comments mentioned gentle density, or medium density throughout the city:

Examples of comments in this category:

“Dense housing focused around transit routes. Short walk to bus/train, then short ride to work/shops/parks/schools”

Houselessness

Respondents mentioned reducing houselessness via affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, shelter space, mental health services, and doing away with sweeps.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Seattle would have robust public transit, and be without a homelessness problem -- not because we kicked out the unhoused, or ended up jailing or killing them, but because we housed them without question, and provided transit and Healthcare.”

“A more affordable Seattle with no one left unhoused!!!”

Single-Family Housing

Responses that mentioned single family housing were generally in favor of doing away with single family zoning and instead implementing mixed-use and denser development. Comments mentioned multifamily options like missing middle housing as well as affordable housing.

Examples of comments in this category:

“There would be no neighborhoods reserved for detached houses”

“Single household zoning restrictions would be removed from all of Seattle.”

“Less large swaths of single family housing with more varied uses intermixed.”

Zoning

Most comments were in support of changing zoning to reduce or eliminate single family zoning and a push for upzoning. A few comments were in support of keeping SFZ while adding more housing or multifamily housing in other parts of the city.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Existing old/poorly maintained MFH stock replaced with more high rise and social/public housing, increased development of land already zoned for MFH but under-developed, while maintaining the SFH neighborhood zoning that makes Seattle a great place for all to live”

“the entire city would be zoned mixed-use for residential and commercial space, with zoning regulations only for businesses with age limits (bars, sex shops, dispensaries, etc.). Perhaps regulations on business hours in family-oriented neighborhoods”

Missing Middle

Increasing housing and diversifying housing options included types of missing middle housing, such as small apartments, rowhouses, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and small condo buildings. Missing middle housing was tied to improving affordability, density, and walkability in neighborhoods.

Examples of comments in this category:

“There would be duplex/triplexes throughout the city and a significant expansion of areas where apartments/condos are located, including mid-rise buildings”

“Our SF neighborhoods would see more variety in housing types like they use to have...bungalow courts, 6plex apartments next to triplex that looks like one house, corner stores, expand our smaller neighborhood villages like Madrona, Madison Valley & Madison Park. With more diverse housing options, prices would vary within a neighborhood.”

“People can consistently find stable housing at a price point they can afford. The huge swaths of single-family-home deserts are replaced with a mix of density (single-family, townhome, duplex, triplex, fourplex, and some apartment buildings), while still maintaining green space around the buildings. This increased density supports small commercial blocks throughout residential neighborhoods, making everywhere walkable for daily errands.”

Rent Control

Mentions of rent control were tied to affordable housing, small businesses, anti-displacement strategies, and building new units.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Clean, safe, with practical solutions in place to address many of the problems the region is facing. Rent control, additional regulations, and additional taxes disincentive small business formation, and construction of work force housing”

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	Count
Houselessness	Homeless, houseless, encampment, unhouse	235
Safety	Safe, crime, violence, theft	235
Services	Service, resource, program, support, education, educate	142

Health	Health, wellness	112
Vulnerable Population	Senior, kid, child, vulnerable, bipoc, black, indigenous	57
Food	Food, garden, farm, fresh	46

Houselessness

Comments about houselessness mentioned reducing or eliminating houselessness (and encampments) through affordable and low-cost housing options. Several comments specifically addressed houselessness in downtown and public open spaces, like parks. Some comments touched on addressing related addiction issues, providing support services, and creating economic opportunities.

Examples of comments in this category:

“No major homeless population because housing and treatment is publicly available. Free or heavily subsidized public transit that has expanded to every corner of the city. More public restrooms available.”

“The homelessness crisis would be nearly solved. Neighborhood communities would be walkable, safe, vibrant homes for people of all races, ethnicities, genders and incomes.”

“We would stop criminalizing poverty and homelessness. Provide services instead of violent police actions.”

Safety

Safety was mentioned in several different contexts, including:

- Crime/Theft – general safety from crime or theft happening in the city
- Drug use – creating safe opportunities for drug use
- Green spaces – safe and clean spaces
- Houselessness – reduction in encampments; safe emergency shelters available
- Housing opportunities – stability in home ownership and renting without displacement risk
- Neighborhoods – some comments specified improving safety downtown
- Transportation – safety and security for pedestrians and cyclists, especially children; reducing cars for general increased safety; safety on public transit

Examples of comments in this category:

“We would have housing for all our residents. People would feel safe that they could age in their housing, without the risk of rising rents and evictions.”

“Seattle would be a thriving city where all feel safe to walk on every block - regardless of race, age, or socioeconomic status - whether that's NW Esplanade near the water in North Beach or 12th and Jackson in Little Saigon.”

Services

Services included support for:

- Addiction treatment
- Housing

- Medical resources
- Mental health
- Middle income community members

Comments also mentioned increasing access to nearby resources and ensuring they are walkable.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Very few residents would be incarcerated or barred from employment because local laws and systems would provide services and safety nets.”

Health

Health-related topics included increasing mental health services, focusing on NMT to improve health, cleaning up the environment, and guaranteeing healthcare. Many comments described their vision of Seattle as both healthy and vibrant for everyone.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Hopefully a more vibrant, healthy, walkable culture where marginalized people can afford to live and no one is unwillingly homeless”

“Good health makes it easier to work and thrive - and relax and enjoy life. We all have a basic right to Life - and that rests on our basic right to a clean healthy environment!”

“Seattle would be a safe, healthy, beautiful, and affordable place for ALL people to live in -- a model city for others due to our investment in the health and well-being of residents and the public amenities available for easy, safe and regular public transportation (to anywhere in the region)”

Vulnerable Population

Comments about vulnerable populations mentioned the need for equity for low-income, BIPOC, and marginalized folks, particularly in housing affordability. Some responses focused on resources for children, like affordable childcare, more preschool options, and cleaner and safer green spaces and transportation routes.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Social housing fills gaps where the market fails to meet residents needs. Supportive and transitional housing are more than enough to house vulnerable populations, with extra space to be a refuge for displaced people from elsewhere. Seattle would be a city where those who are most vulnerable are prioritized, and feel safe and welcome: Children, minorities, the elderly, the disabled, the unwell.”

“Cleaner, safer, more economically equitable, with thriving historic BIPOC communities in place.”

Food

Comments that mentioned food touched on access to healthy food through community gardens, p-patches, vertical farming, local produce in stores, urban farming, and greenhouses. A few comments also mentioned food for wildlife and sustainable fishing. Respondents emphasized the importance of easy access to essential services and issues like food security and deserts.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Farmers' and p-patch markets in different neighborhoods to decrease the number of food deserts and increase community-building and access to fresh produce and other foods while stimulating the local economy and empowering small business owners”

TRANSPORTATION

Category Name	Description (Keywords)	Count
Cars	Car, vehicle, auto	341
Bikes/Rolling	Bicycle, cyclist, bike, biking, rolling	231
Public Transit	Public transit	146
Light Rail/Rail	Light rail, rail, subway, metro	117
Parking	Parking	23
Walkability	Walk, pedestrian, foot, stroll	249

Cars

Most comments were in support of reducing car use and traffic, mentioning deprioritizing SOV use and highway infrastructure by focusing on public transit, bicycles, and pedestrians instead. Other comments suggested incentives for electric vehicles. Some mentioned improving safety and reducing the number of traffic accidents, collisions, etc.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Robust incentives and extensive EV charging infrastructure would contribute to a majority of privately own vehicles being electric. All publicly owned vehicles are electric.”

“There would be no residential cars allowed within city limits--only local commercial traffic, I5 would be torn down and replaced with a greenway or rail line. There would be literal Car Ports N/E/S of the city that citizens could get to by public transportation to drive their car out of town.”

“70% less private car use, far more transit and mobility options, robust walkable neighborhoods. We would focus on low-cost, low-carbon solutions (such as a bike network) versus expensive solutions like electric vehicles”

Bikes/Rolling

Visions for bikes and rolling mobility were described as being safer (protected), with interconnected, increased, and expanded routes. Routes would provide access to community resources, local stores, and important centers of activity.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Significant and connected bike paths used by a majority of commuters”

“A Seattle where you can walk or bike to your job, the grocery store, a cafe, and a doctor all within 15 minutes of your home. A Seattle with significantly less cars and more human-centered activity and modes of transportation.”

“Much more dense, many more people, much more greenery and trees within public rights-of-way and other public space, and much less need to use private cars because of (a) many more things in walking or rolling* distance and (b) more frequent and convenient transit. (* Rolling = wheelchairs and other mobility devices, bikes, delivery bikes, robotic totes and delivery boxes, and other new modes of wheeled transport.)”

Public Transit

Respondents described their vision of public transit as safe, fast, reliable, extensive, easy, efficient, comfortable, and free. Many mentioned public transit providing access to places outside of downtown, including other densely populated areas like Renton, Auburn, Bonney Lake, Tacoma, and Everett.

Examples of comments in this category:

“I'd like to see greater density with reliable, frequent public transit being viewed as the best option for getting around town.”

“Everyone would be taking public transit, not because they are consciously doing so for the environment but because it's just more convenient.”

“Every area in seattle (unincorporated included) should be connected for public transit. Poor people should be able to get to city center for work and live in our area. The city put TWO light rail stops in the u district, but there's only one bus out of my neighborhood. It takes me 45 min just to get to a light rail stop. A 15 min trip takes me 45 min.”

Light Rail/Rail

Mentions of light rail and/or rail included expanding access within the city and between nearby cities (Portland/Vancouver/Spokane). The city's light rail system would be robust, comprehensive, and “fully fleshed out”. Many expressed making sure the light rail system is zero emission and potentially free ridership. Additionally, the areas around the stations would be hubs with services like apartments, bars, hotels, restaurants, etc. Some comments mentioned the monorail, suggesting extending it to the Queen Anne, Pike/Pine, and First Hill.

Examples of comments in this category:

“In 20 years, bus and light-rail should be the preferred mode of travel with dramatically restricted single-occupancy vehicle traffic. We need separated bike lanes in all corners of the city, a connected streetcar that travels downtown, expanded light rail stations in all neighborhoods, and expanded pedestrian access to neighborhood shopping and businesses.”

“The Link Light Rail system will connect all of the densest parts of the city, and new transit-oriented development will spring up in all of these neighborhoods.”

Parking

Comments about parking mentioned:

- Moving parking underground
- Reducing or eliminating private parking spaces, garages, and lots

- Removing parking minimums
- Reinstating parking requirements or market-rate parking

Walkability

Walkability visioning included safer streets, walking paths, and zones for pedestrians, so community members can “get where they need to on foot” while having an enjoyable experience. A few comments mentioned being in walking distance to frequent transit service. Many responses noted wanting to live in walkable neighborhoods or communities.

Examples of comments in this category:

“There would be zero pedestrian or bike fatalities. People would walk to shops and the grocery store on pedestrian roads that are well landscaped and don't have any cars or vehicle parking”

“Connected walkways and open spaces, allowing people to walk to work and in neighborhoods where children could get to parks on their bikes and adults could shop in small local stores on their way to and from work.”

“I would love to see Seattle embrace a walkable-first neighborhoods and cultural centers, borrowing ideas from European cities such as Amsterdam and Barcelona, where transport is effective, cars are few, and the city is a delight to live and work within.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One comment mentioned using parks and green space for public engagement; other comments mentioned wanting to see more community involvement in general terms.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Divisive, polarizing echo chamber politics will not drive civic problem-solving. Seattle will be known as a place that problem-solves with respect and critical thinking, approaching ideas from a wide spectrum of angles and good research and reflection. Neighborhoods will have opportunity to give feedback and have reporting/analysis on basic municipal aspects of growth and change, not just constantly be pummeled in a reactive way to change change change without a sense of where we've been and where we're going and how to connect constructively at the community level without expecting everyone to have the exact same political outlook or otherwise be shunned.”

“I want people to enjoy living here, communities feeling more connected, people engaged with civic activities.”

“It will be much more improved with more active participation by residents compared to other cities with similar issues.”

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Parks and open space-related comments touched on safe and clean green spaces, preservation of existing natural beauty of the region, and increasing the number of parks. Some comments specified more parks for children, families, public engagement, and recreation.

Examples of comments in this category:

“The public realm, parks & open space would support people living in community.”

“Families would love living here. The parks, shopping districts and sidewalks would be clean, lively and safe for everyone.”

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Environment and climate visions included more greenspace, improved air quality, tree-lined streets, restored/expanded tree canopy, renewable resources, and climate-conscious transportation options. Some comments even specified adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat climate change. Many comments simply used the word “greener” to describe their vision of Seattle.

Examples of comments in this category:

“City parks and neighborhood parks are well taken care of, plenty of clean and unobstructed sidewalks, so citizens, to not only incentivize citizens to have a healthier way of commuting, but also, minimize the impact on the planet cause by coffin fuel vehicles.”

“No one would suffer disproportionately from poor environmental quality and climate impacts. Our industries and buildings would be regenerative and the city would be carbon-neutral. You could get anywhere you need to go via bike, foot, or public transportation while enjoying the journey.”

CAPITAL FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Several comments mentioned increasing the presence of solar in the city. One comment mentioned safe access to water.

Examples of comments in this category:

“I would see solar panels on most roofs and greenery everywhere. Right now, if I look out over the industrial district and SODO from the top of Beacon Hill, all I see is gray pavement and dark roofing. There is a lot of space there to install solar on the roofs of all the massive warehouse type buildings there. At the very least, require the roofs to be painted a light color to minimize heat absorption.”

LAND USE

Comments related to land use touched on increasing density, removing single family/exclusionary zoning, and mixed-use development. Respondents mentioned other places that they felt are successful in their land use, such as Paris, European cities, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Cincinnati, NYC, and San Francisco.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Would look like a European city. No design review that stops development and no industrial restrictions that limit land use near transit areas. Force high density TOD. West Seattle and Ballard stations need to be zoned for 1km radius with 500ft high rises and pedestrian zones. Not for cars in areas that have industrial or low density land uses. Ask for density before choosing location. If area cannot accommodate delete and go for somewhere that does. Be bold”

RACE AND EQUITY

Comments about equity envisioned equitable access to resources like parks/green spaces, community centers, medical facilities, grocery stores, libraries, and schools. Additionally, comments about race touched on improved equity for BIPOC community members, specifically around income, wealth, housing, and displacement concerns.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Racially and economically diverse, equitable home and business ownership, low use of cars.”

“I would love to see Seattle be a model for a combination of healthy & thriving community that contains a diverse population along every different axis -- age, ability, race, income, ethnic background served by businesses that respond and are supported by the needs of their customers and wider community.”

ECONOMY AND JOBS

Comments included support resources for employment, local businesses, wage increases, and more even distribution of wealth.

Examples of comments in this category:

“A high proportion of commercial space would be used *and owned* by local, family-owned businesses”

“Seattle would be less segregated, by both race and economic status, than it is now. [...] There would be thriving businesses of many sizes, owned and patronized by racially and culturally diverse people”

ARTS AND CULTURE

Comments about arts and culture mentioned diversifying culture throughout the city, as well as encouraging, supporting, and maintaining existing arts and culture in communities.

Examples of comments in this category:

“Very Clean, Safe and Secure bustling with Art & Culture throughout, Being able to walk around in Confidence, Beauty, Opportunities as well as accessible and Mobilizing for those that are older, Disabled or what not...”

